



UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 4

NEW YORK

that they provide the universities of Latin America with the facilities they need in their efforts to improve the teaching of economics, and that they give effect to the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint UNESCO/ECLA/OAS Mission ;

2. To the universities, and particularly to the faculties of economics, that they continue the efforts begun at the Second Latin American Meeting of Deans of Faculties of Economics, held at Rosario (Argentina) in October 1960, to improve curricula and teaching materials by introducing courses in the analysis and evaluation of economic development problems and planning ;

3. To international organizations, particularly UNESCO, OAS and the ECLA secretariat, that they increase to the greatest possible extent their aid to universities which so request in the following ways recommended by the Joint UNESCO/ECLA/OAS Mission :

(a) By granting fellowships to teaching staff to enable them to complete their studies in national or foreign universities or in international institutes of learning ;

(b) By helping to provide full-time teaching staff ;

(c) By encouraging the preparation of high-quality texts on economics that are closely related to the present economic and social development problems of Latin America ;

(d) By helping university libraries to enlarge their collections of books and texts on economics.

13 May 1961

194 (IX). Activities of the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Cognizant of the report of the Central American Co-operation Committee (E/CN.12/552), covering the period September 1959 to December 1960, and the Note by the secretariat on the Central American Economic Integration Programme (E/CN.12/586), of which it takes note with satisfaction,

Considering that, in December 1960, the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua signed the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration, the Protocol to the Central American Agreement on the Equalization of Import Duties and Taxes, and the Agreement constituting the Central American Bank for Economic Integration,

Decides :

1. To congratulate the Committee on its encouragement of the activities relating to Central American economic integration, and the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua on the signature of the aforesaid agreements ;

2. To express the hope that, in due course, the Government of Costa Rica will decide to accede to membership in the common market ;

3. To express its gratitude to the secretariat of ECLA, the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations of the

United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation for the assistance they have afforded, and to request them to continue co-operating to the fullest possible extent with the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee.

13 May 1961

195 (IX). Economic development of British Honduras or Belize

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Whereas, by virtue of resolution 181 (IX), British Honduras or Belize has been accepted as an associate member,

Taking into account its geographical situation and economic activity,

Recommends :

1. That the secretariat should take the foregoing reasons into consideration in order to relate the economic studies on British Honduras or Belize to the Central American economic structure ;

2. That the secretariat, with the consent of the Governments concerned, consider the possible repercussions of closer co-operation among them with a view to British Honduras' or Belize's joining, if and when opportune, the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee.

13 May 1961

196 (IX). Statistics

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that each forward step in economic development requires improved and more accurate measures of the progress achieved and that the increasing tempo of development requires more current data for the day-to-day and year-to-year planning of economic and social programmes,

Taking into account the report of the Seminar on National Accounts, held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1959, and the progress made in the preparation of national accounts in recent years and the fundamental place these accounts have in economic and social planning,

Considering the urgent need for better information on the social aspects of economic development and the desirability of carrying out sample surveys on family living levels on the basis of censuses now being conducted,

Decides :

1. To recommend that each country carry out a technical evaluation of the basic statistical data now being collected and compiled and the methods utilized in estimating national accounts when important sectors of the economy are not adequately measured, and evaluate the principal economic aggregates such as national income, consumption and investment, taking into account the uses being made of them and the accuracy and promptness required for these uses ; ,

2. To request the secretariat, in co-operation with the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the Inter-American Statistical Institute, to participate with the countries in reviewing their existing sets of national accounts, and to organize teams of statistical advisers who would, at the request of Governments, assist the government services in formulating national statistical programmes and in developing effective co-ordination among agencies collecting and using statistical data;

3. To express its satisfaction with the results achieved at the Seminar on Industrial Statistics, held at Santiago from 10 to 28 October 1960 and sponsored jointly by the Statistical Office of the United Nations, the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, the Inter-American Statistical Institute and the Economic Commission for Latin America;

4. To recommend to the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations that further seminars be held for groups of countries so as to deal with special problems of industrial statistics relevant to the countries concerned, and to request it to co-operate in the holding of further seminars in other statistical fields;

5. To recommend that each country study the desirability and possibility of introducing into its statistical system periodical sample surveys of households, whereby it would be possible to collect current information on economic and social conditions primarily centred in households;

6. To request the secretariat, in co-operation with the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the Inter-American Statistical Institute, to provide the technical assistance required for developing such a programme.

13 May 1961

197 (IX). Comparative prices and the purchasing power of currencies

*The Economic Commission for Latin America,**

Taking into account the preliminary study on comparative prices and the purchasing power of currencies (E/CN.12/589) submitted by the secretariat,

Recognizing that a proper comparative calculation of real prices, costs, wages and incomes is of fundamental importance for the countries of Latin America in connexion with the analysis of economic development and the formulation of national and regional development programmes,

Considering that, given the present inadequate operation of the market in Latin America, the prices of the factors of production in many cases do not reflect the relative scarcity or abundance of such factors, and that this tends to introduce distortions into the evaluation of development projects from the standpoint of national economies,

Decides:

1. To recommend to the secretariat that it amplify the aforementioned study to cover all the countries of Latin America; that it collaborate to the full with other international bodies in comparing data from the Latin American countries with information from other

parts of the world; that it broaden the study to include relationships between price, wage and personal income levels; and that it analyse the causes underlying the difference in the price structure of each country;

2. To recommend to the secretariat that it collaborate to the fullest possible extent with countries that so request in determining the book prices which are required for the evaluation of investment projects from the point of view of the economy as a whole;

3. To recommend to Governments that their competent authorities collaborate to the full with the secretariat by providing it with the information it requires for carrying out the aforementioned studies.

13 May 1961

198 (IX). Development of information media in Latin America

The Economic Commission for Latin America,

Considering that Latin America, in order to attain its economic growth objectives in a relatively straightforward manner and satisfy those aspirations of its peoples whose fulfilment can no longer be deferred, will need the understanding and support of the population for national and regional development programmes,

Considering that in order both to obtain this understanding and support and to extend and guarantee to the peoples of Latin America—particularly the rural population—the full enjoyment of the right to information, it is urgently necessary to undertake co-ordinated action with a view to facilitating the satisfactory development of the press, broadcasting, television and cinematography and at the same time permitting the intensification, expansion and improvement of programmes for the vocational and technical training of personnel working in such information media.

Bearing in mind that information media can give vigorous impetus to efforts and programmes designed to provide both technical training and general education, and thus efficaciously help to expedite the economic and social development of the peoples,

Considering that in resolutions 150 (VIII), 191 (IX) and 192 (IX) the Commission has already emphasized the need for the Latin American countries to intensify their educational and training programmes,

Decides:

1. To commend the activities which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been undertaking, at the request of the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, to promote the development of information media, and which are reviewed in the general UNESCO report on development of information media in under-developed countries (E/3437 and Add. 1);

2. To endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in the said report, especially those put forward by the Meeting of Experts on the Development of Information Media in Latin America, held under the auspices of UNESCO at Santiago, Chile, from 1 to 13 February 1961;